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Memorandum for: Office of training

Subject: Evaluation of Program

In preparing this evaluation I should like to point out that it is conditioned by the fact that I was able to attend only the first two weeks and the last week of the course because of illness, followed by vacation.

From the political and historical analyses which I heard at the beginning of the program, I acquired the feeling that such an area program would be useful and of considerable assistance to the analyst. An expert analysis of events and forces motivating USSR policy and actions could lead to a better understanding of the smaller issues confronting the analyst.

In my own case, I feel that the lectures have helped to crystallize divers bits of information I have garnered in the course of my work into a more coherent picture.

As to the subject matter, I feel -- at least as far as the historical part is concerned -- that while it was relevant to my work, it was too general in nature. I believe that the greater part of the information imparted was familiar to most of us.

My quarrel is rather with the manner and method of presentation. As a former teacher, I was aware of almost complete disregard of the principles of pedagogy, which, of course, reflected on the efficacy of the presentation. In my opinion, it is pointless, for example, to present a speaker, who must cope with a cumbersome foreign accent and involve his audience in the struggle. A teacher must avoid ceaseless marching back and forth across the room; he must face his class most of the time if he is to retain its attention. Nor may a teacher spend his entire time in the chair. From a physical standpoint it is difficult to focus one's attention in a single direction over a period of two hours.

I felt that the balance between lecture and discussion was satisfactory. There was adequate time allotted for questions.

I believe that it is reasonable to suggest to students minimum amount of collateral reading, but I think "extra-curricular" reading should remain on a voluntary basis. Some of us would find it a hardship to meet such a requirement after working hours.

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